

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 SP-02 EB-08 IO-13
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STATE ALSO PASS AID/NE-JLS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, LE, SWEL
SUBJECT: U.S. ROLE IN CURRENT LEBANON RELIEF REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 083752

1. DONOR ROLES ALREADY FORMING PATTERN--UNDP REP IS IN
COORDINATOR ROLE AND ALSO PROVIDING TA TO GOL HIGH RELIEF
COMMITTEE (HRC). IN UN FAMILY, WHO AND UNICEF ARE
OPERATIONALLY SUPPORTING HEALTH, SANITATION AND WATER SECTORS,
WHILE WFP CONCENTRATES ON FOOD. EEC HAS FOCUSED ON
FOOD, MEDICATIONS AND SOME BLANKETS. ARAB STATES AND LEAGUE
HAVE SIMILAR ROLE, ALTHOUGH PROPORTION OF THEIR AID GOING TO
PALESTINIANS APPEARS SIZABLE. ICRC IS MARCHING TO OWN
DRUM IN SHORT-TERM MEDICAL AID PROGRAM IN ISRAELI-HELD
AREAS AND PERFORMING USUAL TRACER-PRISONER EXCHANGE
MISSIONS. OTHER NATIONS HVE CONTRIBUTED CASH TO GOL AND
ICIR OR COMFORT ITEMS TO GOL.

2. CLEARLY, GOL LOOKS TO U.S. FOR REAL HARDWARE OF RELIF--
TENTS AND BLANKETS IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS AND FOOD-MEDICINES
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WHEN GAPS BEGIN TO OCCUR. WE OFFERED AND HAD ACCEPTED OUR
EXPERIENCE IN CAMP PLANNING AND COMES MADE SENSE AS
POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO COSTLY, CUMBERSOME PREFABS FOR
RESETTLEMENT SHELTER. IN RELIEF-RESETTLEMENT, AS ON POLITICAL,
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, WE ARE CONSIDERED THE INNOVATORS
AND THE MOVERS.

3. BIGGEST ISSUES AT PRESENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. NUMBERS OF DP. SOME "OLD DP" ARE JOINING DISTRIBUTION LINES. IF NUMBERS DOUBLE AS THEY MIGHT, THEN CURRENT FOOD INVENTORY WILL LAST PTHREE PLUS MONTHS. BECAUSE MOST "OLD DP" HAVE SOME KIND OF SHELTER, THAT MAY NOT BE PROBLEM.

B. SECURITY. IF ANTAGONISTS IN SOUTH PART SOON AND UNIFIL/LEBANESE ARMY BECOME VISIBLE, TRICKLE OF RETURNS WILL MULTIPLY. IF NOT, SWOLLEN POPULATIONS OF BEIRUT AND SIDON WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY UNEASY AND TENUOUS SITUATIONS WILL DETERIORATE FURTHER.

C. TIME. ASSUMING RESETTLEMENT BEGINS EARLY, AT LEAST SIX MONTHS OF RELIEF WILL BE REQUIRED FOR COMBINATION DP AND RESETTLERS. SHOULD RETURN BE IMPEDED, DURATION OF DEMAND ON RELIEF MECHANISMS HARD TO ESTIMATE. UNCOMFORTABLE THROUGH CAMPS MAY BE, THE RISK OF CAMP SYNDROME, WHERE SHELTER, FOOD AND CARE ARE OFFERED FREE, WILL RUN HIGH

4. ASSUMING COMPROMISE IS REACHED, RECALL THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO NEEDS OF SOUTH LARGELY OMITTED FROM 1977-78 EFFORTS DUE INSTABILITY AND INACCESSIBILITY. FROM CURRENT RESOURCES, PRIORITY OF POTABLE WATER BEING SHIFTED AS PART OF RE-OPENING AREA; URGENT ATTENTION REQUIRED BY WASHINGTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO OBLIGATE FUNDS AND PROCURE COMMODITIES. ALLOCATION OF CURRENT HOUSING GRANT AND HIG RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF REPAIR AND RESETTLEMENT UNDER STUDY. SOME PORTION OF AGRICULTURE CREDIT COULD ALSO GO TO SOUTHERN CITRUS AND TOBACCO FARMERS AND FISHERMEN.

5. RECOGNISING WE HAVE LITTLE SOLID DATA TO GO ON, WE HESITATE TO ESTIMATE POSSIBLE DOLLAR REQUIREMENT FOR RELIEF NEEDS, ESPECIALLY SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY TO GO INTO FOOD COMMODITIES. FOR RESETTLEMENT AND RECLAMATION OF SOUTH, SSA GRANT PROGRAM OF \$15-20 MILLION DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, HOUSING, EDUCATION AND POSSIBLE SOME RURAL ROADS MAY BE REASONABLE. BASICALLY RURAL AREA SOUTH HAS BEEN LONG NEGLECTED EXCEPT BY PROMISES. MOST VILLAGES LACK SCHOOLS OR HAVE INADEQUATE ONES. SIDON, NABATIYEH AND BINT JBEIL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS PROBABLY ALL NEED RESTORATION. HOSPITALS IN SIDON, TYRE, MARJAYOUN, HASBAYA AND TIBNINE WILL ALL REQUIRE EQUIPMENT/FURNISHINGS AS WILL HEALTH CENTERS IN NABATIYEH, BINT JBEIL AND JOUAIYA. RECLAMATION OF CITRUS ORCHARDS AND TOBACCO LAND WILL RATE HIGH PRIORITY. ORCHARDS HAVE REPORTED SUSTAINED DAMAGES FROM RECENT MILITARY OPERATIONS, HOWEVER, RESTORATION BECOMES EXPENSIVE,

LONG-RANGE OPERATION. FISHING INDUSTRY IN SIDON AND TYRE, PARTICULARLY, SUSTAINED REPORTED HEAVY LOSSES IN BOATS AND EQUIPMENT. FINALLY, WE ASSUME RURAL ROAD SYSTEM PROBABLY IN BAD SHAPE AS RESULT MILITARY OPERATIONS AND LONG NEGLECT. OPPORTUNITY COULD EXIST HERE FOR SELF-HELP ACTIVITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH VOLAGS SUCH AS SCF/CDF WHICH HAD SUCH PROGRAM IN 1972.

6. IN TERMS OF OTHER U.S. RESOURCES, PL 480 PROGRAM OF \$7-8 MILLION, MAINLY WHEAT, WOULD ASSIST GOL IN SOLVING INTERIM FOOD REQUIREMENTS ON ROAD TO RECOVERY. PLANNING SHOULD ALLOW FOR GOL GET ACCESS TO U.S. MARKETS AT ADVANTAGEOUS TIME FOR AT LEAST PART OF ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL WHEAT REQUIREMENTS. EXIM BANK SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER FINANCING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH COMMERCIAL ITEMS AS FARM MACHINERY WHICH WILL BE IN HIGH DEMAND BECAUSE SYRIAN ITINERANT LABOR SUPPLY HAS LARGELY DRIED UP.

7. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REFINE BOTH SHORT AND LONG-TERM DATA AS FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

DECONTROLLED FOLLOWING 10/4/78.
PARKER

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